IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. JONATHAN KEITH THOMAS))))	CR. NO. 2:07-cr-04-MHT
	PLEA AGRE	<u>EMENT</u>
DEFENSE COUNSEL:	DONNIE W.	BETHEL
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY:	KENT B. BRI	JNSON

COUNT AND STATUTES CHARGED:

Count One

18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)

COUNT PLEADING PURSUANT TO PLEA AGREEMENT:

Count One

18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)

PENALTIES BY COUNT - MAXIMUM PENALTY:

Count One

18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)

Sentence of not more than \$250,000 and a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years, or both. Special Assessment of \$100.00 and a term of supervised release of not less than 3 years.

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE:

Count One

(18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1))

First:

That the defendant knowingly possessed a firearm in or affecting interstate

commerce, as charged; and

Second:

That before the defendant possessed the firearm, the defendant had been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term in

excess of one year, that is, a felony offense.

Kent B. Brunson, Assistant United States Attorney, and Donnie W. Bethel, attorney for the defendant, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 11(c)(1)(A) and Rule 11(c)(1)(B), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as Amended, have, with the authorization of the undersigned defendant, heretofore entered into discussions with a view towards reaching a pretrial conclusion of the charges pending in the Information herein and a Plea Agreement has been reached by said parties in the following respects.

GOVERNMENT'S PROVISIONS

- 1. Upon entering a plea of guilty by the defendant to Count One of the Information, the attorney for the government will do the following:
- a. The government will agree, that a 2-level reduction in the applicable offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) for the defendant's acceptance of responsibility is appropriate, so long as the defendant does not obstruct justice or otherwise fail to accept responsibility for the offense conduct. If defendant's offense level prior to the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility is 16 or more, and should the Government find the defendant assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the Government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Government and this Court to allocate their resources efficiently, the Government will move at sentencing for a further reduction of one level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b). Determination of whether the defendant's obligations to qualify for the reduction pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 is at the sole discretion of the United States.
- 2. The government will recommend a sentence at the low end of the appropriate advisory guideline range.

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- 3. At sentencing, the government will dismiss the Indictment.
- The United States reserves the right to inform the Court and the Probation 4. Department of all facts pertinent to the sentencing process, including all relevant information concerning the offenses and the defendant's background.
- 5. In the event that, pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement included in this plea agreement, defendant provides substantial assistance to the government in the investigation and prosecution of one or more other individuals and otherwise fulfills all of the terms of this agreement, the government shall move for a departure from the applicable Guideline Range pursuant to U.S.S.G. 5K1.1. The Government shall have sole discretion to determine whether defendant has provided substantial assistance and the extent of the recommended departure. The defendant's failure to receive such a departure shall not be grounds to withdraw his plea.

DEFENDANT'S PROVISIONS

- 6. The defendant agrees to the following:
 - To plead guilty to Count One of the Information. a.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The defendant agrees to cooperate fully and testify truthfully against any and all persons as to whom the defendant may have knowledge at the grand jury, trial, or whenever called upon to do so, including, but not limited to testifying against any codefendant choosing to proceed to trial. The defendant understands that this agreement does not require the defendant to implicate any other particular individual or individuals or to "make a case," rather it requires the defendant to be truthful and to testify truthfully whenever called upon. The defendant agrees to be available, if required, for the review of documents and other materials and for interviews by law enforcement officers and

attorneys for the Government upon reasonable request and to fully and truthfully respond to all questions asked of the defendant by law enforcement officers and attorneys for the Government. The defendant agrees to fully and truthfully disclose to the Government everything the defendant knows about any and all documents and materials in the defendant's possession that relate to the violations charged in this Indictment and any other criminal violations in the Middle District of Alabama and elsewhere. The defendant agrees to submit to a polygraph examination conducted by the Government if requested to do so.

Provided that the defendant satisfies the terms of this Plea Agreement, any information that the defendant truthfully discloses to the Government during the course of the defendant's cooperation, concerning related offenses, will not be used against the defendant, directly or indirectly. The defendant understands that this agreement does not bar the defendant's prosecution for capital felonies, perjury, false statements, and/or obstruction of justice.

If the defendant has failed or should fail in any way to fulfill completely the defendant's obligations under this agreement, then the Government will be released from its commitment to honor all of its obligations to the defendant. Thus, if at any time the defendant should knowingly and willfully withhold evidence from, or is found to have provided false information to, the Government investigators or attorneys prior to or during the defendant's testimony before grand juries or in trials, or fails to appear for any scheduled court appearance or any scheduled meeting with law enforcement agents in the Middle District of Alabama, then the Government will be free: (1) to prosecute the defendant for perjury, false declaration, false statement, and/or obstruction of justice (18 U.S.C. §§ 1621, 1623, 1001, 1503); (2) to prosecute the defendant for all violations of federal criminal law which the defendant has committed; (3) to use against the defendant in all of

those prosecutions and sentencings the information and documents that the defendant has disclosed or furnished to the Government during the course of the defendant's cooperation; (4) to recommend a maximum sentence; (5) to seek forfeiture of any and all forfeitable properties of the defendant; (6) to seek forfeiture of any appearance bond made by the defendant if the defendant fails to appear in the Middle District of Alabama for any scheduled court appearance or any scheduled meeting with law enforcement agents; and (7) to prosecute the defendant for the defendant's failure to appear at any scheduled court appearance, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1073 or any other applicable state or federal criminal statute. The parties agree that the Government will have the sole discretion to decide whether defendant has breached this agreement.

FACTUAL BASIS

7. The defendant understands the nature of the charge to which the plea is offered involves proof that on or about the 5th day of June, 2006, in Greenville, Alabama, within the Middle District of Alabama,

JONATHAN KEITH THOMAS,

defendant herein, having been convicted of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle in the Circuit Court of Butler County, Alabama, Case Number CC 99-47, for which he was sentenced on or about June 23, 1999, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, did thereafter knowingly possess in and affecting commerce, a firearm to wit: a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

DEFENDANTS' UNDERSTANDING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The defendant, before entering a plea of guilty to Count One of the Information as 8. provided for herein by said Plea Agreement, advises the Court that:

- a. The discussions between the attorney for the government and the attorney for the defendant towards reaching an agreed plea in this case have taken place with the defendant's authorization and consent.
- b. The defendant further understands that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, the \$100.00 assessment is to be paid by the defendant on the date of sentencing.
- c. The defendant understands that the defendant has a right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceedings against the defendant herein and is represented by the defendant's undersigned attorney.
- d. The defendant understands that the defendant has the right to plead not guilty and has the right to be tried by a jury and, at a trial thereof, has the right to the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against the defendant, the right to call witnesses in the defendant's own behalf, and the right not to be compelled to incriminate the defendant, and that if the defendant enters a plea of guilty herein, there will not be a further trial of any kind and that by the entry of such a plea, the defendant waives the right to a trial by jury or to a trial before the Court.
- e. The defendant further understands that in entering a plea of guilty herein, the Court may ask questions about the offense to which the plea is entered and further understands that if the defendant answers these questions under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, which questions and answers would be recorded, that the answers may later be used against the defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement if the answers are not truthful.

- f. Defendant further understands and advises the Court that the plea agreement as set forth herein and the plea to be entered by the defendant as a result thereof is voluntary on the defendant's part and is not the result of any force or threats or of any promises apart from the aforesaid Plea Agreement. The defendant further advises the Court that the Plea Agreement set forth herein is the result of prior discussions between the attorney for the Government and the attorney for the defendant, all conducted with the defendant's authorization, knowledge and consent.
- g. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant's understanding of this Plea Agreement is as set forth in this document.
- h. The defendant further advises the Court that the defendant understands and has been advised that evidence of a plea of guilty, later withdrawn or an offer to plead guilty to the crimes charged in the Information herein, or of statements made in connection with and relevant to said plea or offer to plead, shall not be admissible in any civil or criminal proceedings against the defendant. However, the defendant does understand that evidence of a statement made in connection with and relevant to a plea of guilty, later withdrawn, or an offer to plead guilty to the crimes charged in the Information herein, is admissible in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement when the statement was made by the defendant under oath, on the court record, and in the presence of counsel.
- i. The Defendant is satisfied that defense counsel has been competent and effective in representing defendant.
- 8. The defendant understands that the U.S. Probation Office will prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court. The Probation Officer will consider defendant's

conduct related to the offense to which the plea if offered, as well as the defendant's criminal history. The offense level or criminal history category as calculated by the Probation Officer and determined by the court may differ from that projected by defendant's counsel or the U.S. Attorney.

This <u>25th</u> day of May, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

LEURA G. CANARY UNITED STATES ATTORNEY Page 8 of 9

Louis V. Frankin, Sr. Chief, Criminal Section Post Office Box 197

Montgomery, Alabama 36101

(334)223-7280

Kent B. Brunson

Assistant United States Attorney

I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement, understand the same, and the matters and facts set forth therein accurately and correctly state the representations that have been made to me and accurately set forth the conditions of the Plea Agreement that has been reached.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS TO WHICH I AGREE, I SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS IN THE "FACTUAL BASIS"

PARAGRAPH ABOVE ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM SATISFIED THAT I HAVE RECEIVED COMPETENT ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION FROM MY

DEFENSE COUNSEL, DONNIE W. BETHEL.

onathan Keith Thomas

5/24/07

Defendant

Donnie W. Bethel

Attorney for the Defendant

Date